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The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

JUN 1 2007

Claims 12-15 and 18 remain pending, withdrawn claims 16-17 and 19-21 having been canceled.

Claim 14 has been amended to address the objection set forth on page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 12-13, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the minor informalities noted on page 3 of the Office Action. Claim 12 has been amended to address the Examiner's concern.

Claims 12-14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mallory et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 5,805,392 (Mallory), including citations to Partee, U.S. Patent Publication No. 6,081,408 (Partee) and Takeura et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 4,807,073 (Takeura) for evidence of inherency in Mallory. The Applicants traverse, noting that independent claim 9 has been amended to positively recite the method for manufacturing a single pole type magnetic write head, comprising steps of forming a groove on an inorganic insulating layer, forming a magnetic layer serving as a main pole of the write head in the groove, and forming a recess in the magnetic layer on a trailing side of an air bearing surface thereof. Now, the invention is more particularly characterized as pertaining to the claimed method for manufacturing a write head, whereas Mallory fails to disclose the recess and magnetic layer on the trailing side of the air bearing surface of the main pole of the write head.

The Applicants note Fig. 1, which discloses NiFe layer 16, cited in the rejection as the magnetic layer corresponding to the claimed magnetic layer serving

as the main pole. As disclosed in col. 4, lines 66-67 of Mallory, however, head 25 containing magnetic layer 16 is an MR head, which is a read head.

Further, the Office Action relies on the ion beam etching or milling of magnetic layer 16, shown at 480 in Fig. 4 of Mallory, to meet the step of forming a recess in a magnetic layer. However, as noted above, Mallory's magnetic layer 16 is part of a pole piece 11 of the read head, and thus does not meet the limitation of the presently amended claim, requiring the magnetic layer to serve as a main pole of a write head. Accordingly, even incorporating alleged inherency in Partee and Takeura, Mallory does not anticipate claims 12-14 and 18.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mallory in view of Cohen et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 5,326,429 (Cohen). Cohen is cited as disclosing that it is conventional to pattern an inorganic layer of alumina by using resist pattern to etch a groove in the insulating layer.

However, Cohen does not teach the claimed magnetic layer serving as a main pole of a write head, in which a recess is formed on a trailing side of an air bearing surface thereof. Therefore, even in combination with Mallory, Cohen does not meet the invention defined in claim 15, incorporating the limitations of independent claim 12.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to

06-01-'07 14:36 FROM-Mattingly, Stanger

703-684-1157

T-372 P009/009 F-456

U.S. Application No. 10/774,370

the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIT-320-02).

Respectfully submitted,

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